



Community Involvement Activities MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, February 27th, 2019, at 5PM-7PM

Willing Heart Community Center

555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07103

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Warren Poole, Committee Chair, welcomed all in attendance a moment of silence was observed for all those living with and have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

2. Introductions

Mr. Poole informed attendees that Ms. Eugenia Providence from United Way is taking an opportunity with another company and today is her last day with us. Mr. Poole then introduced Ms. Tania Guaman who will now serve as the Project Manager for the Newark EMA.

3. Topic of discussion: Community Talk - Can we talk? – Phase One

Mr. Poole provided attendees with information on the Ryan White Program, Part A— what it covers for core medical vs. support (social services, food, and housing) services. A lively discussion followed where consumers shared challenges with internal stigma, access to medical care, and discrimination.

One consumer in attendance shared a story where his podiatrist turned him away after looking through his chart and finding out about his HIV status. Another consumer shared her experience with a dentist, who knowing her status, refused to perform an invasive procedure. She was then referred to a different facility.

Consumers agreed that, too often, their fear of being turned away from medical services may prevent them from disclosing their HIV status.

Mr. Poole had the consumers in attendance take an anonymous survey regarding HIV related mental health services and consumer's ability to access them. Responses showed that

- Not every consumer had been referred to mental health services.
- Some consumers wanted to be referred to mental health services and some didn't know if they needed to.
- Those who received mental health services felt that their personal issues were 'solved'.

All CIA members were encouraged to give their testimony at the Planning Council meeting taking place on March 15, 2019. This is in preparation for the budget meeting in May.

4. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 27th, 2019 at 5pm at Willing Heart Community Center 555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07103
5. **Adjournment** This meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm